

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2070

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CZ
SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON CZECHOSLOVAK INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. DURING AUGUST 4 CALL BY DCM, FRG CHARGE GIESDER
OFFERED FOLLOWING FRG VIEWS ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS
EN ROUTE TO 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGUST, 1968 SOVIET
INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

2. REGIME TAKING OFFENSIVE. GIESDER BELIEVES THE
RECORD SHOWS INCREASINGLY THAT THE HUSAK REGIME IS
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"TAKING THE OFFENSIVE" IN MARKING THE AUGUST ANNIVERSARY.
THUS, SPEECHES OF HUSAK AND OTHERS REPEATEDLY END EXPLICITLY
REVIEW EVENTS OF 1968 AND ARGUE THE NECESSITY OF
THE INVASION TO OUST DUBCEK AND HIS ALLEGED COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARIES. ALSO, LOCAL MEDIA ARE STEPPING UP
PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS AGAINST ALLEGED US ESPIONAGE
EFFORTS AIMED AT CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE RISE OF NEO-

NAZISM IN THE FRG AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND THESE CAMPAIGNS ARE MEANT IN PART TO UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE, THEREBY JUSTIFYING A RECENT TIGHTENING OF INTERNAL SECURITY CONTROLS. FRG EMBASSY HEARS THE REGIME'S EFFORTS MAY BE CLIMAXED BY SOME KIND OF HIGH-LEVEL PARTY-STATE GATHERING ON EVE OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY. GIESDER BELIEVES THE WORD IS OUT THAT ANY TROUBLE WHATEVER BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WILL BE SWIFTLY AND FIRMLY SUPPRESSED.

3. CHARTER 77 SUPPORTERS' ACTIONS. MEANWHILE, FRG EMBASSY HAS REPORTS PARALLELING THOSE REACHING US OF INCREASINGLY CLOSE SURVEILLANCE OF PROMINENT CHARTER 77 SIGNATORIES AND OF EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THE LATTER TO BE AWAY FROM PRAGUE OVER THE AUGUST 20-21 ANNIVERSARY PERIOD. GIESDER UNDERSTANDS THAT DRAFT OF DOCUMENT TO BE RELEASED IN THE NAME OF CHARTER 77 HAS ALREADY REACHED THE WEST AND IS SLATED TO BE PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 19. MOREOVER, HE UNDERSTANDS CERTAIN GROUPS OF CZECHS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH CHARTER 77 WILL ALSO ISSUE DECLARATIONS REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLES OF "SOCIALISM WITH A HUMAN FACE" THAT DEVELOPED DURING THE BRIEF DUBCEK ERA. FRG EMBASSY, HOWEVER, DOES NOT EXPECT DRAMATIC CONFRONTATION INVOLVING FORCE WHEN THE ANNIVERSARY ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE.

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4. FRG-CZECHOSLOVAK PROBLEMS. GIESDER NOTED THAT JULY OUSTER OF WEST GERMAN CORRESPONDENT CLEMENS HAD UNDERCUT SOME OF THE LIMITED IMPROVEMENT IN FRG-CSSR RELATIONS THAT FLOWED FROM THE APRIL, 1978 HUSAK VISIT TO BONN. HE WAS SURE THAT MORE BILATERAL TROUBLE WAS ON THE WAY SINCE WEST GERMAN (AND AUSTRIAN) TV WILL TELECAST A SPECIAL HOUR-LONG PROGRAM CONCERNING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY ON AUGUST 17, AND THIS PROGRAM WILL DOUBTLESS BE SEEN BY A LARGE CZECHOSLOVAK AUDIENCE IN AREAS NEAR THE FRG AND AUSTRIAN BORDERS. HE EXPECTS STRONG MFA PROTESTS REGARDING THE TV SPECIAL AND CONSEQUENTLY, A FURTHER SHORT-TERM WORSENING OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.
BYRNE

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